

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing end seals on a continuous supply of fastener strip for subsequent attachment to a thermoplastic web ~~[[used]]~~ in a bag making machine, said method comprising the steps of:

providing said continuous supply of fastener strip, said fastener strip including first and second interlocking profiles with said profiles interlocked along an interlocking length;

advancing said continuous supply of fastener strip within a guide;

identifying a first end section of said continuous supply of fastener strip, said first end section consisting essentially of an interlocked first portion of said fastener strip;

fusing the first end section such that a first of the end seals is provided;

identifying a second end section of said continuous supply of fastener strip with said identification based on a measurement from said first end section, said second end section consisting essentially of an interlocked second portion of said fastener strip; and

fusing the second section such that a second of the end seals is provided~~[[; and]]~~ thereby creating a length of said continuous supply of fastener strip for subsequent attachment to said thermoplastic web; said length including said first and said second end seals.

2. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein ~~said fastener strip includes first and second interlocking profiles with said profiles interlocked along an interlocking length with~~ said first and second end sections are ~~[[being]]~~ disposed on said interlocking length.

3. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 2, further including the steps of clamping the continuous supply of fastener strip, said step of clamping occurring during the fusing of said first and second end sections.
4. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 3, further including the step of separating said length from said continuous supply of fastener strip.
5. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for producing end seals on a continuous supply of fastener strip used in a bag making machine, said apparatus comprising;
  - means for guiding a continuous supply of fastener strip having first and second interlocked profiles;
  - means for identifying a first end section of said continuous supply of fastener strip;
  - means for fusing the first end section such that a first end seal is provided;
  - means for identifying a second end section of said continuous supply of fastener strip with said identification based on a measurement from said first end section;
  - means for fusing the second end section such that a second seal is provided thereby creating a length of said continuous supply of fastener strip said length including said first and said second end seals.
6. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5, further including means for clamping the continuous supply of fastener strip during use of the fusing means.

7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 5, further including means for separating said length from said continuous supply of fastener strip.

8. (Withdrawn) A device for producing end seals on a fastener strip from a continuous supply of fastener strip, said device comprising:

- a profile, said profile including a recess in a first edge and a cutting edge opposite to said first edge with said cutting edge providing a cutting action to said fastener strip;

- a blade disposed on a central axis of said recess, said blade including a length and a first end of the blade integral with said profile;

- an insulating clearance positioned between said length and said profile;

- a heating element attached to the length of said blade, said heating element providing a fusing action to said fastener strip such that a section of said fastener strip is fused; and

- a moving medium connected to said profile providing a movement of said profile extendable to said fastener strip allowing said cutting action and said fusing action.